

UCLA Faculty Association

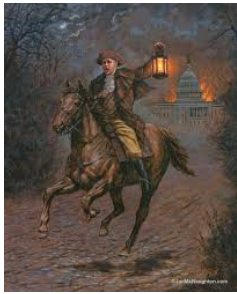
News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Wednesday, January 8, 2025

The Budget Is Coming! The Budget Is Coming! - Part 2

Jacob Sisney of the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) provides this email note (below) concerning the state budget. On January 10, we will see the actual proposal for 2025-26 from the governor and a cash report through December from the controller:



Preliminary tax agency data shows that, in December, California collected \$12.4 billion in net personal income tax (PIT) receipts (\$2.9 billion above the monthly forecast from last year's budget) and \$10.3 billion in net corporation tax (CT) receipts (\$71 million above the monthly forecast).

In total, December 2024 PIT and CT receipts were up 30% from December 2023, including a 27% increase in PIT withholding, which alone contributed \$1.9 billion of the PIT overage for the month. (The late Thanksgiving holiday helped push some collections into December. For the two months of November and December combined, PIT withholding was up 11% from last year.)

At the end of November, state General Fund receipts in the 2024-25 fiscal year were running \$4.3 billion above the 2024 budget forecast. If other revenues are close to their forecast targets in December, the PIT and CT performance would boost fiscal year-to-date collections to more than \$7 billion above the 2024 budget forecast.

In previewing his January 10, 2025 budget proposal earlier this week, Governor Newsom said the soon-to-be-released Department of Finance forecast update would project General Fund revenues at \$16.5 billion above the 2024 forecast for the fiscal years 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26 combined. Actual revenue performance through December suggests that revenues could be significantly above this level through at least 2024-25. A portion of any revenue overage goes to Proposition 98 school funding, and while the Governor said that Finance's 2025-26 estimates indicate a small budget surplus (inclusive of a \$7 billion withdrawal from the state's main rainy day fund), he did not identify the projected level of future deficits, which the Legislative Analyst's Office in November pegged at \$20 billion to \$30 billion per year.

Furthermore, uncertainty about policies of the incoming federal administration and Congress is significant. Widely discussed proposals to cut Medicaid could add billions to California's future deficits, before considering other fiscal and economic changes that may be considered...

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: controller, governor, LAO, State Budget

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

No Alert as of Tuesday Evening

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- Common Systemwide Calendar Workgroup
- UCSA's Letter Asking UC to Expand Commitment to Vulnerable Populations
- UC President Search Committee Statement
- Faculty File Historic Academic Freedom Unfair Labor Practice Charges Against UC
- Union Letter to UC with Benefits Demands

Remaking the University

- Liner Note 14: Michael Burawoy and the Future of Knowledge - 2/7/2025
- Why I Walked Out of the MLA for Good--And Why You Should Too (Guest Post) - 1/28/2025
- Highlights 11: Morons of the Master Race - 1/26/2025

Higher Ed. News & Commentary

- Chronicle of Higher Education
- Inside Higher Education
- Remaking the University
- Changing Universities
- California Professor

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- UCSB Faculty Association
- UCSC Faculty Association
- UCB Faculty Association
- Council of UC Faculty Associations

Other Faculty Organizations

- American Association of University Professors
- California Faculty Association (NEA)
- UC-AFT

Topics

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Richard Nixon hoses down his house in the Bel Air fire of 1961.

As of 8:30 PM. UCLA is not issuing any warnings related to the Palisades fire:

Bruins Safe Online

BruinALERT

CAMPUS STATUS: OPEN

There is no major emergency at this time.

Last updated: January 7, 2025 at 8:30 p.m.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 9:13 PM No comments: [social icons]

Labels: UCLA

Related Message

YouTube Search

Greetings from UCLA's New Associate of the Chancellor

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Contributors

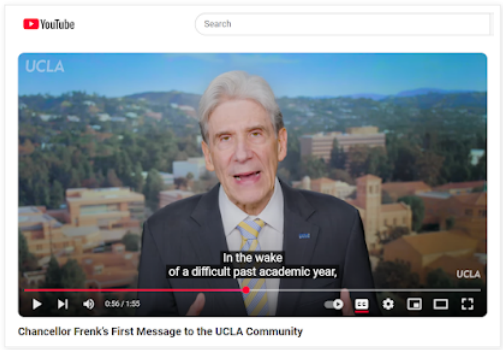
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-  Toby Higbie
-  UCLA Faculty Association

Or direct to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0OYy6lhNslo>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 11:24 AM No comments:     

Labels: [UCLA](#)

First Message



Or direct to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6buDVsnWafs>
or <https://ia600105.us.archive.org/29/items/newsom-1-2-25-new-laws/new%20UCLA%20chancellor%201-7-2025.mp4>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 10:35 AM No comments:     

Labels: [UCLA](#)

To whose advantage?

As blog readers will know, UC offers retiree health insurance including a Medicare Advantage plan run by UnitedHealth. Medicare Advantage plans are essentially a privatized version of Medicare now covering more than half of Medicare-eligible participants. They are highly promoted by the insurance companies that offer them because, apparently, Medicare



overpays them. According to the [Wall Street Journal](#), you'll be healthier - at least on paper - if you stay in traditional Medicare with a supplement. See below:

An alternative plan?

Like most doctors, Nicholas Jones prefers to diagnose patients after examining them. When he worked for UnitedHealth Group, though, the company frequently prepared him a checklist of potential diagnoses before he ever laid eyes on them. UnitedHealth only did that with the Eugene, Ore., family physician's Medicare Advantage recipients, he said, and its software wouldn't let him move on to his next patient until he weighed in on each diagnosis. The diagnoses were often irrelevant or wrong, Jones said. UnitedHealth sometimes suggested a hormonal condition, secondary hyperaldosteronism, that was so obscure Jones had to turn to Google for help. "I needed to look it up," he said.

The government's Medicare Advantage system, which uses private insurers to provide health benefits to seniors and disabled people, pays the companies based on how sick patients are, to cover the higher costs of sicker patients. Medicare calculates sickness scores from information supplied by doctors and submitted by the insurers. In the case of UnitedHealth, many of those doctors work directly for UnitedHealth.

More diagnoses make for higher scores—and larger payments. A Wall Street Journal analysis found sickness scores increased when patients moved from traditional Medicare to Medicare Advantage, leading to billions of dollars in extra government payments to insurers. Patients examined by doctors working for UnitedHealth, an industry pioneer in directly employing large numbers of physicians, had some of the biggest increases in sickness scores after moving from traditional Medicare to the company's plans, according to the Journal's analysis of Medicare data between 2019 and 2022.

Sickness scores for those UnitedHealth patients increased 55%, on average, in their first year in the plans, the analysis showed. That increase was roughly equivalent to every patient getting newly diagnosed with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, and breast cancer, the analysis showed. That far outpaced the 7% year-over-year rise in the sickness scores of patients who stayed in traditional Medicare, according to the analysis. Across Medicare Advantage plans run by all insurers, including UnitedHealth, scores for all newly enrolled patients rose by 30% in the first year...

Full story at <https://www.wsj.com/health/healthcare/unitedhealth-medicare-payments-doctors-c2a343db>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:     

Labels: [health care](#), [UC](#), [uc retirement](#)

Monday, January 6, 2025

The Budget Is Coming! The Budget Is Coming!

From the governor's office:

During California Jobs First Tour, Governor Newsom to receive the North San Joaquin Valley economic plan and preview 2025-26 state budget topline

STANISLAUS COUNTY — During the sixth stop of his California Jobs First tour, Governor Gavin Newsom will receive from local leaders the North San Joaquin Valley's regional economic plan to create equitable access to quality jobs, protect natural resources, and boost the local economy. Governor Newsom will also preview the topline of the 2025-26 state budget.

The full state budget, accompanied by an in-depth briefing, led by the Department of Finance, is scheduled for Friday, January 10, 2025.

WHEN: Monday, January 6 at approximately 10:30 a.m.

LIVESTREAM: Governor's Twitter page, Governor's Facebook page, and the Governor's YouTube page. This event will also be available to TV stations on the LiveU Matrix under "California Governor."

Source: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2025/01/04/monday-during-california-jobs-first-tour-governor-newsom-to-receive-the-north-san-joaquin-valley-economic-plan-and-preview-2025-26-state-budget-toplines/>.

Bottom line: Preview today, details on Friday.



Posted by California Policy Issues at 9:08 AM No comments:     

Labels: [governor](#), [politics](#), [State Budget](#)

Town Halls

The Regents are searching for a new UC president to replace President Drake when he retires. A series of "town halls" have been set up at which participants can make public comments regarding the search, either in-person or by phone. From the Regents' website:

UC Presidential Search Townhalls scheduled for

January 10th at UC Irvine, 1 PM (Friday),

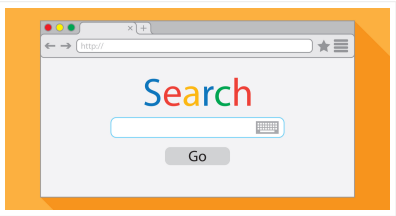
January 17th at UC Davis, 1 PM (Friday), and

January 21st at UCSF, Mission Bay, 1 PM (Tuesday)

offer an opportunity for the public to engage directly with the Special Committee. These town halls provide a platform for community members to voice their questions, comments, and concerns and describe what they want to see in a new UC president. Your participation is encouraged. Sign up to provide public comment in person or via phone at:

<https://ucop.questionpro.com/a/TakeSurvey?tt=YwG7WV/xJ9MECHrPeIW9eQ%3D%3D>.

Source: <https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/index.html>.



Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:     

Labels: [Drake](#), [UC Regents](#)

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